

House Study Bill 628 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON PAUSTIAN)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the possession of cats classified as
2 bengals and savannahs, and making penalties applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 717F.1, subsection 5, paragraph b,
2 subparagraph (2), Code 2022, is amended to read as follows:

3 (2) (a) The offspring of a domestic cat and another member
4 of the family felidae classified as a bengal with an ancestor
5 classified as an Asian leopard cat which is a member of the
6 species *prionailurus bengalensis*. The bengal must be the
7 ~~fourth~~ second or later filial generation of offspring with the
8 first filial generation being the offspring of a domestic cat
9 and an Asian leopard cat, and each subsequent generation being
10 the offspring of a domestic cat.

11 (b) The offspring of a domestic cat and another member of
12 the family felidae classified as a savannah with an ancestor
13 classified as a serval which is a member of the species
14 *leptailurus serval*. The savannah must be the ~~fourth~~ second
15 or later filial generation of offspring with the first filial
16 generation being the offspring of a domestic cat and a serval,
17 and each subsequent generation being the offspring of a
18 domestic cat.

19 EXPLANATION

20 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
21 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

22 This bill amends Code chapter 717F, which regulates owning,
23 possessing, or transporting dangerous wild animals under the
24 authority of the department of agriculture and land stewardship
25 (DALs). Generally, the Code chapter prohibits a person from
26 owning or possessing a dangerous wild animal in this state, or
27 transporting a dangerous wild animal into this state, unless
28 the person is licensed by the United States department of
29 agriculture and registered by DALs. A "dangerous wild animal"
30 includes cats (classified as belonging to the family felidae)
31 other than domestic cats. The term also includes the offspring
32 of a dangerous wild animal and any subsequent generation of
33 offspring. An exemption applies to a cat classified as a
34 bengal, which is a cross between a domestic cat and an Asian
35 leopard cat, or classified as a savannah, which is a cross

1 between a domestic cat and a serval. In both cases, there must
2 be a separation of four filial generations between the Asian
3 leopard cat or serval and the exempted cat. The generations
4 are calculated by counting from the first filial generation
5 which is the offspring of the original crossing. The filial
6 generations are sometimes referred to as F-1 through F-4 to
7 identify the first four filial generations of offspring. The
8 current exemption applies to those cats classified as F-4
9 (fourth) or a later filial generation. The bill changes that
10 exemption to include bengals and savannahs classified as F-2
11 (second) or a later filial generation.

12 A person owning or possessing a dangerous wild animal is
13 subject to a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 (Code section
14 717F.11) and a person who intentionally causes a dangerous wild
15 animal to escape is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor (Code
16 section 717F.13). An aggravated misdemeanor is punishable by
17 confinement for no more than two years and a fine of at least
18 \$855 but not more than \$8,540.